

For further information, contact Anita Felicelli  
[anitafelicelli@gmail.com](mailto:anitafelicelli@gmail.com)

## **NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE ANNOUNCES FUNDRAISING AUCTION**

New York, NY, August 9, 2021- The National Book Critics Circle announced today it will hold its first virtual auction to raise funds for its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. The auction will be held on [BetterWorld.com](https://www.betterworld.com), between August 20-August 27, and will feature more than 60 curated literary experiences and book bundles.

At the March 2021 meeting, the NBCC board put in place a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, with Ruben Quesada as DEI Vice President. “One of the goals for the NBCC over the next few years is to ensure that our focus is on historically marginalized communities,” said Quesada. “We can begin to do this by creating opportunities for access and inclusion in the events and publications we sponsor, and by developing programming that specifically promotes our DEI goals. The first step, though, is funding.”

Though the NBCC ran a fundraiser to support a website reboot in 2018, the organization has subsisted largely on membership dues for almost fifty years. This virtual auction allows the organization to leverage lessons learned during the pandemic to reach a wide audience of readers and critics — all of them more aware than ever of how much our humanity depends on literature, and on the critics who lead us to what we most need to read.

To participate the auction, go to <http://nbcc.betterworld.org/auctions/national-book-critics-circle-fun-2>. Some of the items to be auctioned include:

- Ask Me Anything (AMA) sessions -- one-on-one meetings with writers including Charles Yu, Darin Strauss and Aleksandar Hemon as well as editors from Riverhead and Alta; opening bids for some AMAs are as low as \$35.
- Publicity consultations with Broadside Literary and Sarah Russo; manuscript consultations with veteran editors and educators including Oscar Villalon, David Ulin and Lisa Locascio.
- French food and book discussion around the fire pit with Meg Waite Clayton, author of *The Postmistress of Paris*.
- A group getaway at a guesthouse in Lake Tahoe owned by writer Eileen Bordy.
- Bundles of books provided by The Ruby, the Writers Grotto, Two Lines Press, Interabang Books, and Chez Panisse.
- Writing classes and conferences.
- Paintings, broadsides and a private Zoom concert.

There will be live Zoom events to open and close the auction on August 20th and 27th, including brief performances by some of the authors whose books are available for bidding. There will also be presentations of thumbnail book reviews by emerging and well-known critics.

Find more information about all NBCC activities and sign up for the NBCC’s weekly newsletter, Critical Notes, at the organization's [website](https://www.nbcc.org).

### **About the National Book Critics Circle**

The National Book Critics Circle honors outstanding writing and fosters a national conversation about reading, criticism, and literature. The organization was founded in April 1974 at the

Algonquin Hotel in New York City, by John Leonard, Nona Balakian, and Ivan Sandrof, among others. The NBCC gained 501(c)(3) status in October 2006 and has since received grants from the NEA and Amazon Literary Partnerships to support its work. Today the NBCC serves nearly 800 member critics, authors, student members, and friends. Its Emerging Critics fellowships offer mentorship and education to a class of about a dozen aspiring critics each year.

Website: <https://www.bookcritics.org/>

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